

Discrimination in Housing

Discrimination in housing is illegal in Minnesota

Under the Minnesota Human Rights Act, housing is a "protected area." It is illegal to treat you differently in a housing situation based on any of the following characteristics:

- Race
- Color
- Creed
- Religion
- National Origin
- Sex
- Marital Status
- Familial Status
- Disability
- Public Assistance
- Sexual Orientation

These are called "protected classes." There are some exceptions about how each class is covered under the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

Examples of what could be discrimination in housing

Unfair treatment in housing happens a lot. But not every unfair act is illegal. Here are some examples of what could be illegal discrimination in housing:

- A housing manager treats you differently because you are on public assistance. To apply for an
 apartment you need to have income four times the rent. People not on public assistance only need
 two times the rent.
- An apartment caretaker always makes repairs for white renters before making repairs for people of color.
- Your landlord says she/he cannot rent to you anymore because you are pregnant.
- A landlord will not rent to a blind person who has a service animal. The landlord says, "No pets allowed, even for the blind." (A service animal is not a pet.)
- A real estate agency will not show or sell you a house because you were not born in America.
- A bank charges you higher interest for a home loan because you are a woman.



What to do

If you think you are a victim of discrimination:

- Write down what happened to you if you think it was unfair.
- Write down the dates when the unfair treatment happened.
- Write down the names of other people that were there.
- Write down what the people who were there said.

Do not wait!

Sometimes it is hard to say what is discrimination and what is not discrimination—every situation is different. But if you think you are a victim of discrimination, do not wait. Contact the Minnesota Department of Human Rights immediately. You have one year after the discrimination happened to file a complaint.

How to Contact Us

We take phone calls Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Phone: 651-539-1100 (TTY 651-296-1283); Toll free: 1-800-657-3704

You do not need an appointment to visit our office

We accept walk-ins from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Our address

Minnesota Department of Human Rights Freeman Building 625 Robert Street North Saint Paul, MN 55155

Email address

info.MDHR@state.mn.us

If you are emailing the department about filing a charge of discrimination and do not receive a reply within five business days, please contact our intake unit by phone at 651-539-1100 (TTY 651-296-1283) or Toll Free at 1-800-657-3704.

Getting an interpreter

Interpreters may be available to communicate with our office. Call us and say, "I need a (say your language here) interpreter."

This document is not a complete answer to housing discrimination under the Minnesota Human Rights Act.